

PATENT
Application Serial No. 09/874,414

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 9, 2003. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A minor change has been made to the label in box 38 of Figure 7. The label in the box now reads "CMD WORD" to maintain consistency with the description of the Figure in the body of the application.

A minor correction was made to page 4 of the specification correcting the number of objects forming the component image from 7 to 10.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Wieringen (U.S. Patent No. 6,326,971 B1; hereinafter "Van Wieringen"). Van Wieringen discloses an installation and method for controlling a movable apparatus resembling a living being, or a two-dimensional simulation thereof.

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On the other hand, Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 1, is a method for generating and coding for transmission an animated graphic image. Van Wieringen does describe a type of positioning system which shows movement along the positions (col. 4, lines 31-65). However, Van Wieringen does not disclose, teach or suggest coding each subsequent frame (n) as a number of data words representing the difference between that frame (n) and the previous frame (n-1). Van Wieringen calculates the distance between a current posture and the posture of every frame of the cyclic motion by subtracting the values of the corresponding joints in both postures. The absolute values of the differences are added (col. 15, lines 29-42). Van Wieringen deals with cyclic motion while Applicant's invention involves coding the first frame and subsequent frames.

A person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not be able to modify the teachings of Van Wieringen to produce the Applicant's device. Applicant's invention seeks to use a vector graphics format to allow animated graphics to be defined in a highly compressed way (specification, pg. 3, lines 29-32). A person of ordinary skill in the art would not think to use the teachings of Van Wieringen to produce Applicant's method of generation and coding. Furthermore, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify or combine the teachings of

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Van Wieringen to arrive at Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) objection.

Independent Claim 7

Claim 7 discloses an apparatus configured to receive and decode animated graphics images. Van Wieringen discloses some of the same devices of communication as Applicant does in claim 7. However, Van Wieringen fails to disclose a memory means which stores reconstructed image frames or a processor arranged to reconstruct individual frames of the animation by identifying and reconstructing objects from object identifier codes.

A person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made would not be able to modify the teachings of Van Wieringen to produce the Applicant's apparatus which receives and decodes animated graphic images. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not think to use the teachings of Van Wieringen to produce Applicant's apparatus. Furthermore, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify or combine the teachings of Van Wieringen to arrive at Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) objection.

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Dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-9

Claims 2-6 and 8-9 which depend from independent claims 1 and 7 respectfully are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. However, each is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, and should be individually considered on its own merits.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Applicant's agent can be contacted at the number below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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